



**State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST
(WAC 197-11-960)**

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Debris Removal Hof / Swinger Access Site

2. Name of Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Capitol Programs & Engineering Division
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Contact Person: Cindy Knudsen
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Telephone Number: (360) 902-8422
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E-Mail: cindy.knudsen@dfw.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared: Nov 2, 2010

5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Winter 2010 – Summer 2011.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:

None known.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

None are pending.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

A Whatcom County Shoreline Exemption Permit will be needed.

- 11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.**

This project will remove debris deposited by the 2009 flood in this area. The high precipitation of the severe winter storm caused flooding of the Nooksack River. At this site, there are two types of debris: 84 cubic yards of vegetative debris (75.5 feet x 10 feet x 3 feet), and 83 cubic yards of sand/ silt deposits (25 feet x 180 feet by 0.5 feet). Debris will be deposited out of the flood zone at an approved facility. See site drawings.

- 12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.**

The proposed project site is reached by proceeding north on Interstate 5. At Exit 256A-B take ramp right for Meridian Street/SR-539 North/Guide Meridian Road toward Linden. Turn right onto SR-539/Guide Meridian Road/Meridian Street. Bear right onto road. Enter roundabout. Exit roundabout at 2nd exit onto SR-539 North / Guide Meridian Street. Pass through 2 roundabouts remaining on SR539. Make a U turn at Bay-Lyn Dr, and bear right on River Road. The last intersection is Flynn Road before you arrive at the Hoff Access site (1.3 miles). Hoff Access site is on the left. This project is located in Township 40 North, Range 2 East and Section 35 48.9435,-122.51051.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (underline one): flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____.**

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?**

2% slope.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of the agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.**

Soils in the vicinity are classified as Puyallup fine sandy loam.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. No.**

- e. Describe the purpose, type and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

There will be no fill material for this project.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction or use? If so generally describe.**

Yes, proposed debris cleaning will temporarily disturb the access site.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

There will be no increase in impervious surfaces.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Erosion impacts will be reduced by placing a sediment barrier around the construction sites to isolate the disturbed area from surface waters.

2. Air

a. What type of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Low levels of vehicle exhaust emissions and dust from construction activities are expected during project activities. No long-term effects in air quality are anticipated to result from the completed project.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: None.

3. WATER

a. Surface

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes ponds or wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Nooksack River is near the project site. The Nooksack River is connected to Bellingham Bay.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes, all components are adjacent to the Nooksack River (see attached plans).

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

There will be no fill or dredge material placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Yes, the entire site is within the 100-year floodplain.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste material to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. No.

b. Ground

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description purpose, and approximate quantities, if known. No.
- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be discharged.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (including quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Stormwater in the area sheet flows from impervious road surfaces onto adjacent farmland and is infiltrated before reaching surface waters. This project will not change storm water runoff patterns.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. No.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground and runoff water impacts, if any: None.

4. PLANTS

- a. Check or underline types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other; Sitka spruce

shrubs

grass

pasture

crop or grain

wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other

water plants: waterlily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

None.

- c. **List threatened and endangered species [of plants] known to be on or near the site.**

None.

- d. **Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:**

None.

5. ANIMALS

- a. **Underline any birds or animals, which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:**

Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: waterfowl.

Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. **List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.**

Endangered species are known to occur near this site in the Nooksack River. These include Puget Sound Chinook, Puget Sound Steelhead and Bull Trout.

- c. **Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.**

Juvenile Coho salmon, bull trout, and sockeye most likely utilize the Nooksack River as overwinter rearing habitat. Other species migrate through this area, including: resident cutthroat, bull trout, coho, Chinook, pink, sockeye and steelhead salmon species. This area is below a migration route for avian species including Trumpeter Swan.

- d. **Proposed measures to preserve and enhance wildlife, if any:**

None.

6. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- a. **What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.** None.

- b. **Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.** No.

- c. **What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:** None.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- a. **Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal.** No.

- 1) **Describe special emergency services that might be required.** None.

2) **Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:** None.

b. Noise

1) **What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?** None.

3) **What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.**

Temporary increases in noise levels during construction activities are expected from this project. Hours of increased noise will be 8 am to 5 pm. No long term change in noise levels is expected from the completed project.

3) **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:** None.

8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

This site is used as a Nooksack River access area to provide public access and to protect valuable wildlife habitat. Adjacent properties are rural, with some agricultural areas.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so describe?

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures on this site.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so what? No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? R-5. 1 unit – 5 acres

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Rural.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Rural.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

No persons would reside here.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? None.

k. **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:** None.

l. **Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:**

Proposed sediment removal will enhance this area for wildlife.\

9. HOUSING

a. **Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.** None.

b. **Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.** None.

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:** None.

10. AESTHETICS

a. **What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

Proposed sediment and woody debris removal would return the site to pre-damaged condition.

b. **What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?** None.

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:** None.

11. LIGHT AND GLARE

a. **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

None.

b. **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**
No.

c. **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?** None.

d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:** None.

12. RECREATION

a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

There are fishing opportunities at this site. There are also waterfowl viewing opportunities available at this site.

b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

No recreational activities will be displaced. Access to the area will be preserved.

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:** None.

13. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

- a. **Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.**

None are known.

- b. **Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. None are known.**

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**

Removal of sediment materials will occur only in areas where sediment and wood debris were deposited during the 2009 flood event. In the unlikely event that historic artifacts are discovered, construction work will immediately stop and the proper authorities will be contacted.

14. TRANSPORTATION

- a. **Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

Highway 539 and River Road serve this site.

- b. **Is site currently served by public transit? If no, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

No. The nearest public transit stop is unknown.

- c. **How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? None.**

- d. **Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

No. This proposed project will only remove sediment and woody materials that were deposited during the 2009 flood event.

- e. **Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

There is no established water, air or rail transportation nearby.

- f. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.**

No change in WDFW staff vehicle trips will occur.

- g. **Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: None.**

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

- a. **Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so generally describe. No.**

- b. **Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any: None.**

16. UTILITIES

a. **Underline utilities currently available at the site: Electricity, Natural Gas, Water, Refuse Service, Telephone, Sanitary Sewer, Septic System, Other.**

b. **Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity, which might be needed.**

No utilities will be added or changed from this project.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

SIGNATURE: Cynthia Knudsen DATE SUBMITTED: 11/2/2010

